THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The 86th Constitutional Amendment provides for free and compulsory elementary education as a Fundamental Right, for all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan the State Governments provide free education upto Upper Primary level for all children including SCs and STs. Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas provide free education to SC/ST students. There is no provision of free education in colleges, however, Universities/Colleges have schemes of freeship and Post Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students.

(b) Education is a concurrent subject, primarily comes under the purview of State Governments. The details of schools/colleges where poor SC/ST students are provided education on concessional rates are not centrally maintained.

(c) Does not arise.

Shutting down of NCTE

3556. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has on one side decided to shut down the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and on the another side advertised for the appointment to the post of its Chairman and Vice-chairman;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to seek the advice of other concerned Ministries and State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sudeep Banerjee, the then Advisor, Ministry of Human Resource Development was appointed to conduct an indepth study of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), New Delhi and its Regional Offices. The Committee observed *inter-alia* that the functioning of NCTE was not commensurate with the objective of planned and coordinated development of Teacher Education and recommended that the NCTE Act, 1993 should be repealed and all regulatory functions relating to teacher edcuation and teacher education institutions should be vested in the University system. After inter-ministerial consultations the Legislative Department under the Ministry of Law & Justice has been requested to draft the 'Repeal Bill'. Meanwhile, the posts of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, NCTE have fallen vacant. Processes have been initiated to fill up the vacancies.

Physical exercises, yoga and other games in schools

3557. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce physical exercises, yoga and other games as a compulsory subject from primary shool onwards in the country as is being done in many other countries abroad; and

(b) if so, what special funding policy Government proposes to adopt in order to meet such expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) National Curriculum Framework 2005 has recommended that Health and Physical Education must continue as a compulsory subject from primary to the secondary stages and as an optional subject at higher secondary stage of education. Accordingly, physical education is taught as a compulsory curriculum in classes I to XII in schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education. Games and sports and yoga are an integral part of the physical education curriculum.

(b) No special funding policy has been proposed for this purpose.

Fee hikes in IIMs

3558. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of steep hike in fees announced by Indian Institutes of Managements especially IIM, Ahmedabad, effecting a three-fold increase from Rs. 2.00 lakhs to Rs. 6.00 lakhs per year;

(b) whether such a move would incapacitate the poor from SC/ST/OBC students securing admission in IIMs; and

(c) to what extent Government has reconciled to the decision of IIM managements on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The IIM Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Bhargava have submitted an Interim Report on 4th April, 2008 to the Government to ask all the Indian Institutes of management (IIMs) to defer any increase in fee and keep it at the level of December 2007 (*i.e.* at Rs. 3 lakhs or less as the case may be) till such time as the Committee submits its Final Report to the Government. The same has been forwarded to all the Chairman of IIMs.

Committee to look into fee structure in higher education

3559. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up an expert committee to look into various aspects concerning the fee structure in higher education and thus arrive at a strategy whereby the fee for higher education is neither ridiculously low nor poses a barrier in equitable access to higher education;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has also recommended that fee structure should be revised to cover up to 20 per cent of the operational costs; and